

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-24, 26-28 and 30 are pending. Claims 25 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for issuing the supplemental Office Action, in which each of the pending claims were considered. Applicants additionally thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 1-24 and 26-28.

I. Claims 7 and 28

The Office Action asserts claims 7 and 29 contain redundant recitations. Accordingly, the Office Action contains suggestions for amending claims 7 and 28 (Applicants respectfully point out that the identification of claim 29 in Paragraph 2 of the Office Action should have been claim 28). In response, Applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestions in amending claims 7 and 28.

II. Claims 29 and 30

Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly reciting subject matter not described in the originally filed application. As claim 29 has been cancelled, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 29 is now moot.

The Office Action asserts that the originally filed specification describes that the -CONH- group is part of an oligomer or polymer, and "[c]laim 30 encompasses compounds which do not have to be polymeric in nature." In response, claim 30 has been amended to recite that the -CONH- containing component is a polymer. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claim

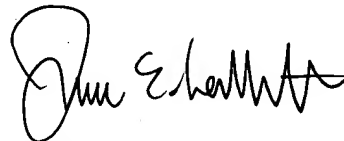
30 now recites subject matter present in the originally filed specification.

III. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that each claim of the present application is in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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